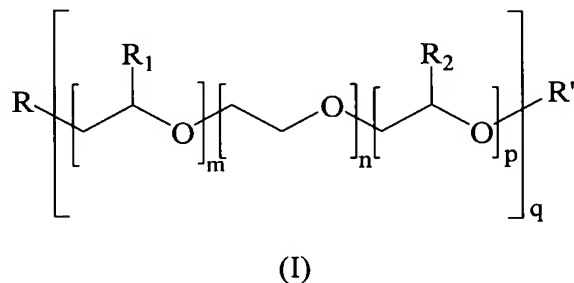


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness, wherein said copolymer has at least one alkoxy or hydroxy polyalkylene glycol function grafted onto at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer consists of at least one monomer of formula (I):



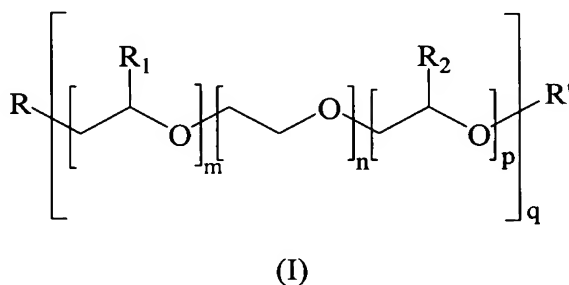
wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and

- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer consists of:

- a) at least one anionic monomer with a carboxylic or dicarboxylic or phosphoric or phosphonic or sulfonic function or a mixture thereof,
- b) at least one non-ionic monomer, the non-ionic monomer consisting of at least one monomer of formula (I):



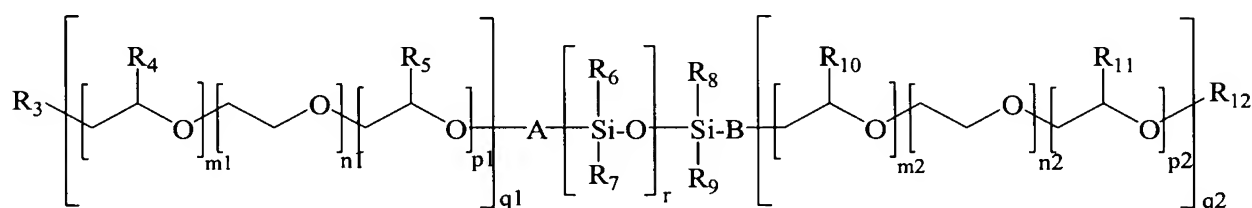
wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R₁ represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R₂ represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and

- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,
- or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),
- c) possibly, at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer, unsaturated esters, vinyls and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium at least one organofluorinated or organosilylated monomer, or a mixture of several of these monomers, and
 - d) possibly, at least one monomer having at least two ethylenic insaturations referred to as a crosslinking monomer,
- the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 1, wherein the organosilylated monomer is selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)

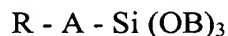


wherein- m_1 , p_1 , m_2 and p_2 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,

- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1+n_1+p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2+n_2+p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,

- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,
- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

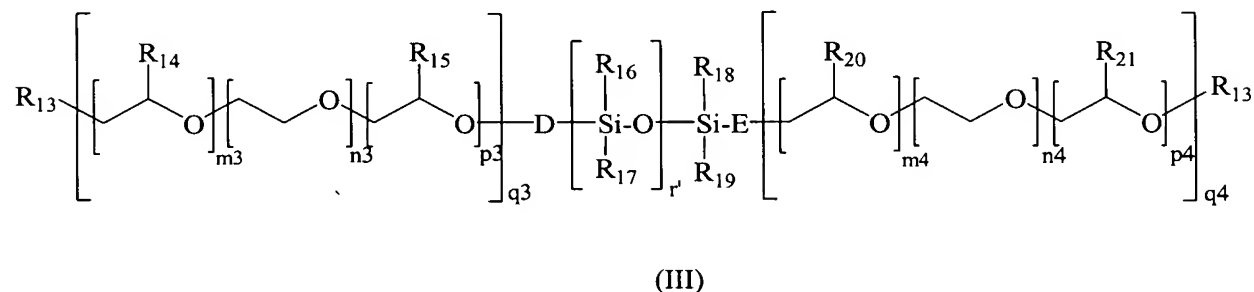
with formula (IIb)



wherein

- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a mixture of several of said monomers,

and wherein the crosslinking monomer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis-methacrylamide, tetrallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



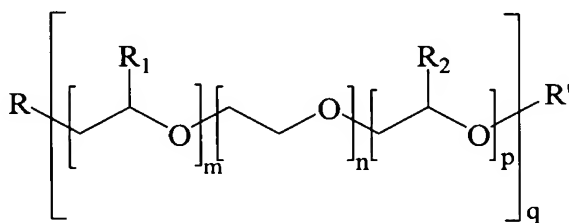
wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
- r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
- R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and

- D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a mixture of several of said monomers.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer consists, by weight, of

- a) from 2% to 95% of at least one ethylenically unsaturated anionic monomer having a monocarboxylic function selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a monocarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a dicarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a sulfonic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphoric function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphonic function and mixtures thereof,
- b) from 2 to 95% and, more particularly, from 5% to 90%, of at least one non-ionic ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

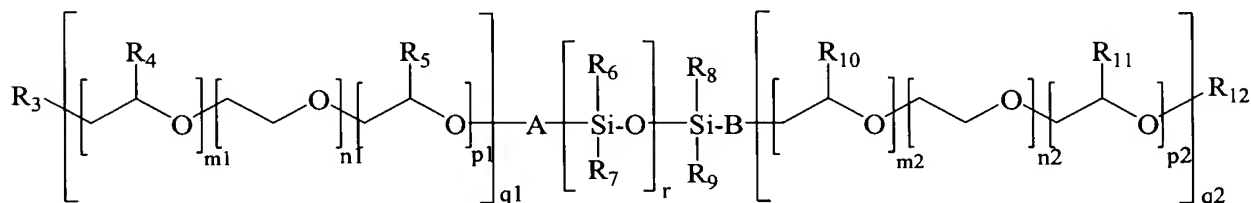
- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,

- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and
- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,

or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),

- c) from 0% to 5% of at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives, and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer, vinyls and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium at least one organofluorinated monomer, or at least one organosilylated monomer selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)

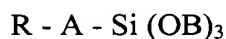


wherein

- m_1 , p_1 , m_2 and p_2 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,

- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1+n_1+p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2+n_2+p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,
- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,
- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphtalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R_{12} represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

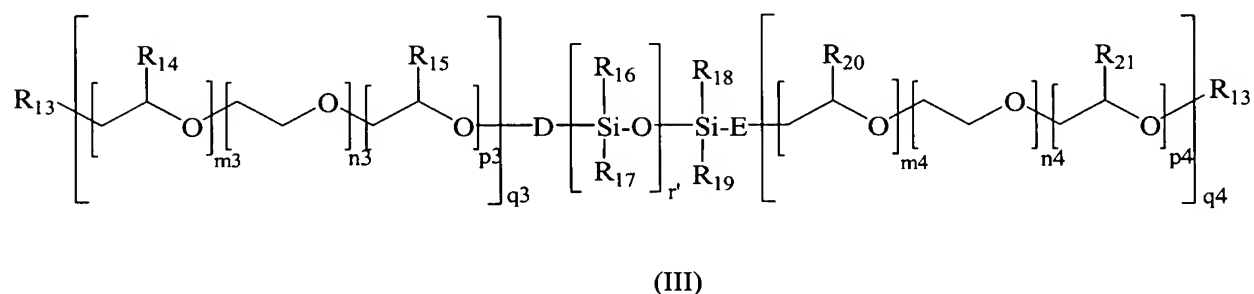
with formula (IIb)



wherein

- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphtalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of several of said monomers,
- d) from 0% to 3% of at least one crosslinking monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis methacrylamide, tetrallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
- r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
- R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,

- R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical
- R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and
- D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms

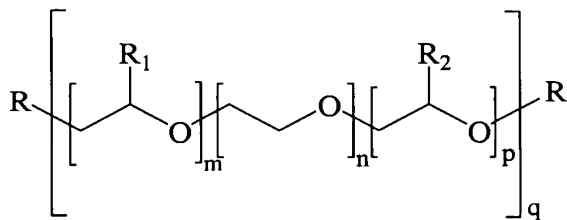
or a mixture of several of said monomers,

the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The water-soluble copolymer as an agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is in its acid form or fully or partially neutralized by one or more neutralization agents having a monovalent neutralizing function or a polyvalent neutralizing function.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An agent for improving the activation of optical brightness, comprising a water-soluble copolymer having at least one alkoxy or hydroxy polyalkylene glycol function grafted onto at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting of at least one monomer of formula (I):



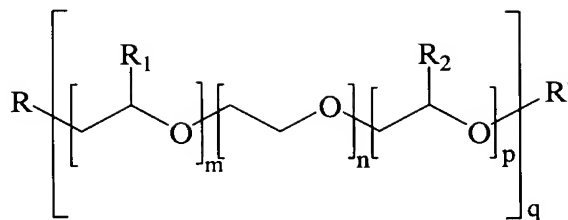
(I)

wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphtalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and
- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): $[[An]]$ The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein said agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting of:

- a) at least one anionic monomer with a carboxylic or dicarboxylic or phosphoric or phosphonic or sulfonic function or a mixture thereof,
- b) at least one non-ionic monomer, the non-ionic monomer consisting of at least one monomer of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphtalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and
- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,

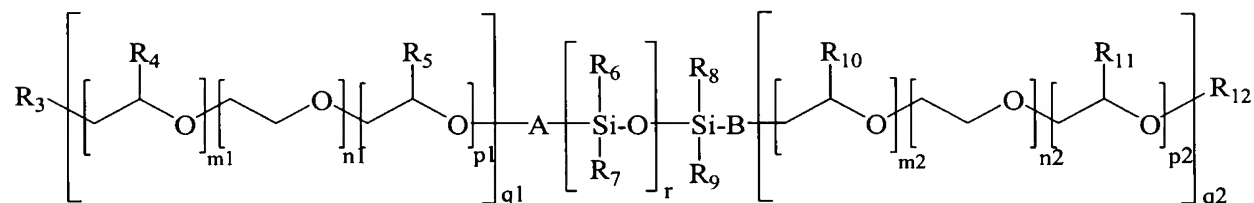
or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),

- c) ~~possibly~~ optionally, at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium at least one organofluorinated or organosilylated monomer, or a mixture of several of these monomers, and

- d) ~~possibly~~ optionally, at least one monomer having at least two ethylenic insaturations referred to as a crosslinking monomer,
 the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): $[[An]]$ The agent improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the organosilylated monomer is selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)



wherein

- m_1 , p_1 , m_2 and p_2 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1 + n_1 + p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2 + n_2 + p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,
- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,
- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,

- R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R₁₂ represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

with formula (IIb)



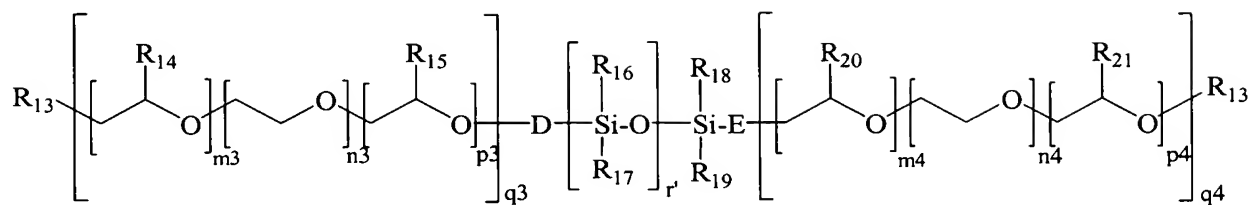
wherein- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,

- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

or a mixture of several of said monomers,

and wherein the crosslinking monomer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis-methacrylamide, tetraallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



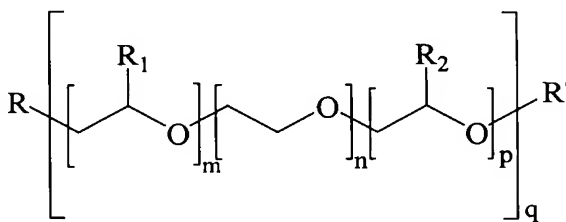
(III)

wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
 - n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150
 - q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
 - r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
 - R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
 - R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
 - R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and
 - D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- or a mixture of several of said monomers[.,].

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[An]] The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a water-soluble copolymer consisting, by weight, of:

- a) from 2% to 95% of at least one ethylenically unsaturated anionic monomer having a monocarboxylic function selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a monocarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a dicarboxylic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a sulfonic function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphoric function, ethylenically unsaturated monomers having a phosphonic function and mixtures thereof,
- b) from 2 to 95% of at least one non-ionic ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

- m and p represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n represents a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q represents an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $5 \leq (m+n+p)q \leq 150$,
- R_1 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_2 represents hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic,

itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane

unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not

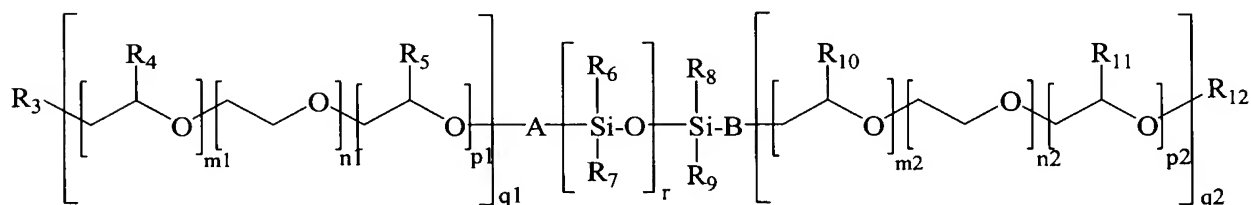
substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides, and

- R' represents hydrogen or a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms,

or a mixture of several monomers of formula (I),

- c) from 0% to 5% of at least one monomer of the acrylamide or methacrylamide type or their derivatives and mixtures thereof, at least one non water-soluble monomer, unsaturated esters, vinyls $[[s]]$ and their derivatives, at least one cationic monomer or quaternary ammonium, at least one organofluorinated monomer, or at least one organosilylated monomer selected from the group consisting of molecules of formulae (IIa) and (IIb),

with formula (IIa)

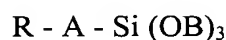


wherein

- m_1 , p_1 , m_2 and p_2 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_1 and n_2 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_1 and q_2 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_1+n_1+p_1)q_1 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_2+n_2+p_2)q_2 \leq 150$,
- r represents a number such that $1 \leq r \leq 200$,

- R_3 represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_4 , R_5 , R_{10} and R_{11} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof,
- R_{12} represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 40 carbon atoms, and
- A and B are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

with formula (IIb)

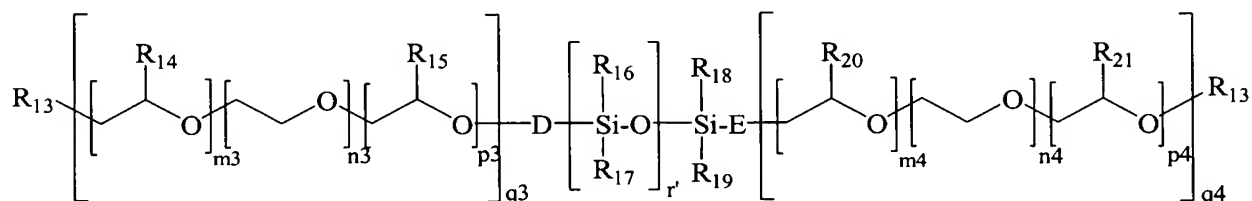


wherein

- R represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- A is a group which may be present, in which case it represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
- B represents a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of several of said monomers,

d) from 0% to 3% of at least one crosslinking monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate, allyl acrylate, the

allyl maleates, methylene-bis-acrylamide, methylene-bis methacrylamide, tetrallyloxyethane, triallylcyanurates, and allyl ethers prepared from polyols, or selected from the group consisting of molecules of formula (III):



(III)

wherein

- m_3 , p_3 , m_4 and p_4 represent a number of alkylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- n_3 and n_4 represent a number of ethylene oxide units less than or equal to 150,
- q_3 and q_4 represent an integer equal to at least 1 and such that $0 \leq (m_3+n_3+p_3)q_3 \leq 150$ and $0 \leq (m_4+n_4+p_4)q_4 \leq 150$,
- r' represents a number such that $1 \leq r' \leq 200$,
- R_{13} represents a radical comprising a polymerizable unsaturated function, belonging to the vinyl group and to the group of acrylic, methacrylic, maleic, itaconic, crotonic, and vinylphthalic esters and to the group of urethane unsaturates, and to the group of allyl or vinyl ethers, whether or not substituted, or to the group of ethylenically unsaturated amides or imides,
- R_{14} , R_{15} , R_{20} and R_{21} represent hydrogen or the methyl or ethyl radical,
- R_{16} , R_{17} , R_{18} and R_{19} represent straight or branched alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mixture thereof, and
- D and E are groups which may be present, in which case they represent a hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms

or a mixture of several of said monomers,
the total of the proportions of components a), b), c) and d) being equal to 100%.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The agent for improving the activation of optical brightness according to claim 7, wherein the agent is a copolymer in [[its]] acid form or fully or partially neutralized by one or more neutralization agents having a monovalent neutralizing function or a polyvalent neutralizing function.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method for the dispersion in aqueous suspension of mineral matter, comprising adding the copolymer according to claim 1 to said aqueous suspension.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method for the dispersion in aqueous suspension of mineral matter according to claim 13, wherein said aqueous solution comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method for the dispersion in aqueous suspension of mineral matter according to claim 13, wherein the mineral matter is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomites, kaolin, talc, gypsum, titanium oxide, satin white or aluminium trihydroxide, mica and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An aqueous suspension of mineral matter, comprising the copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous suspension comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The aqueous suspension of mineral matter dispersed according to claim 16, wherein said mineral matter is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomites, kaolin, talc, gypsum, titanium oxide, satin white or aluminium trihydroxide, mica and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method for the grinding in aqueous suspension of mineral matter, comprising adding the copolymer according to claim 1 to said aqueous suspension.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method for the grinding in aqueous suspension of mineral matter, according to claim 18, wherein said aqueous suspension comprises 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): The method for the grinding in aqueous suspension of mineral matter according to claim 18, wherein said mineral matter is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomites, kaolin, talc, gypsum, titanium oxide, satin white or aluminium trihydroxide, mica and mixtures thereof ^{[[f]]}.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): An aqueous suspension of ground mineral matter, comprising the copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous suspension comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The aqueous suspension of ground mineral matter according to claim 21, wherein said mineral matter is selected from the group consisting of calcium

carbonate, dolomites, kaolin, talc, gypsum, titanium oxide, satin white or aluminium trihydroxide, mica and mixtures thereof.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): A method for the manufacture of filler [[c]] comprising adding the copolymer according to claim 1 to said filler.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method for the manufacture of filler according to claim 23, wherein said filler comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A filler comprising the copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said filler comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the total dry weight of fillers and/or pigments,.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): A method for the manufacture of coating color, comprising adding the copolymer according to claim 1 to said coating color.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A method for the manufacture of coating color according to claim 26, wherein the coating color comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A coating color comprising the copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said coating color comprises from 0.05% to 5% by dry weight of said copolymer with respect to the total dry weight of fillers and/or pigments.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is an additive added to suspensions of dispersed mineral matter.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is an additive added to suspensions of ground mineral matter.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): A manufactured and/or coated paper comprising the copolymer according to claim 1.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): A textile composition comprising the copolymer according to claim 1.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): A detergent composition comprising the copolymer according to claim 1.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A composition of paint comprising the copolymer according to claim 1.